

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-13 and 15 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 12 and 13 are independent.

Claim 14 has been canceled and claims 1, 12 and 13 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Gramann. Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gramann in view of Sokel. Further, claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gramann in view of Sokel and Stanfield, claim 9 stands rejected as obvious over Gramann in view of Sokel and Sprenger and claim 12 stands rejected as obvious over Gramann in view of Sprenger. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a system to facilitate bookings including at least one business centre, each said at least one business centre having at least one product available for booking, wherein each said at least one business centre includes a first processing means for receiving and making bookings of said at least one product from at least one agent or customer and a central data centre including a second processing means for receiving and making bookings of said at least one product from said at least one agent or customer or at least one other agent of customer. The first processing means is authenticated by said second processing means to enable said first processing means to make bookings of said at least one product from the at least one agent or customer. At one or more predetermined periods of actions said first and second processing means are synchronized so that booking information

in said first and second processing means is the same. Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Gramann.

The system of the invention can handle any type of data and does not rely upon query tables. Many types of business data can be synchronized between nodes by the system. All data changes on either a primary or secondary system are recorded, allowing for the replication of an entire business between computers, not just a data sub-set. The invention provides one mechanism for synchronizing data, such as tourism data including, but not limited to, actual availability, customer details, travel date and tours/attractions between a central server and multiple end computers. This synchronization enables third parties to access the full set of data and can be used by third party distribution channels (e.g. online and offline travel agencies) to fulfill distribution obligations.

Gramann discloses a process for synchronizing calendar based data between a primary and secondary computer by utilizing query tables. This manner of synchronization differs from the present invention. The claims now recite that a first processing means is authenticated by a second processing means to enable the first processing means to make bookings of at least one product from at least one agent or customer. Such authentication is not disclosed or suggested by Gramann or any other prior art of record.

Sokel discloses a central database having external connected systems that elect to contribute changes. The system acts as an external system coordinating the update of customer records to participating external systems and there is no disclosure of offering and synchronizing data regarding a product. As such, Sokel does not cure the deficiencies noted above.

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended in a similar manner to present claims of varying scope. Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 12 and 13 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Gramann, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-11 and 15, Applicants submit that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-11 and 15 are allowable. In addition, these claims recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

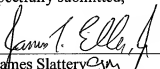
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Chris McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 11, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By  #39,538
James Slattery
Registration No.: 28,380
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant